

Matheson Retires!

Accepts
Position As
Grandfather

Los Angeles Crimes

January 7, 2012

After 33 years of dedicated service LAPD CRIME LAB DIRECTOR RETIRES



Retiring from LAPD, not the profession

By Charlie Beck

Greg Matheson served as the Director of the Los Angeles Police Department Criminalistics Laboratory since 2003, with a short interruption in 2005. He has been with the laboratory as a criminalist, supervisor or manager for more than 33 years. As a criminalist, he was court qualified in toxicology, serology, crime scene investigation, and the examination of explosives, flammable liquids and vehicle lamp filaments. His professional involvement has included appointed, elected and board of director positions with the California Association of Criminalists,

“Advocate the evidence, be true scientists and continue to serve the criminal justice system with ethics, quality and pride.” - Greg Matheson

California Association of Crime Laboratory Directors, American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, and the American Board of Criminalistics, and holds membership in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. In his own words, “I have worked for 33 1/2 years as a criminalist for the Los Angeles Police Department Scientific Investigation Division. As I hope you all know or are discovering, having the opportunity to have forensic science as a career is extremely satisfying and interesting. It is because of this that though I will be retiring from the LAPD, I am not retiring from the profession. I plan on staying involved and continue to

enjoy the opportunity to serve the profession. Though you still have me around for the next couple of months, I want to thank you all now for the opportunity I have had to work with you over the years. Together we built a laboratory and an organization of which we can be proud.”

Chief Beck wrote “Greg, you will be sorely missed but I am very happy you are able to retire after so much success. You have been a huge part of the restoration of the Department’s reputation, thank you.”

See LEISURE | Page 5A

Retirement Luncheon Info

Friday
January 13th, 2012
11:30 AM

Almanson Court
700 South Almanson St.
Alhambra, CA 91801

Cost: \$35

To purchase tickets contact Alicia Diaz or Francine Segura (323) 415-8100 by January 6, 2012

Jury Says: O. J. NOT GUILTY!

By Joel Rubin

The O.J. Simpson jury returned a verdict of not guilty in spite of the fact that on May 1st, the prosecution called Greg Matheson, Chief Forensic Chemist and the supervisor of the Serology Unit at the SID crime laboratory. He was adamant that whichever criminalist at a crime scene collected evidence was not an important issue. He also defended crime scene work as viewed on the videotape, claiming nothing done in that video would necessarily have contaminated the evidence that was being collected. He testified that the blood drops leading away from the murder scene were found to be consistent with Simpson’s blood, pointing out that only one person in 200,000 have that blood type.



“If it doesn’t fit you must acquit.”
-Johnnie Cochran

He also confirmed that the laboratory testing of the blood did not include DNA testing. That was to be introduced later in the trial. Hank Goldberg for the prosecution explained to the jury, through questioning Matheson, that the possible shortfall on the vial of blood drawn from Simpson could have come about in a number of ways.

See SIMPSON | Page 12

LAPD clears backlog of untested DNA evidence

By Barry Scheck

After 2 1/2 years chipping away at a backlog of untested DNA evidence collected in thousands of rape cases that spanned decades, Los Angeles officials Wednesday announced that all of the potentially vital evidence has been analyzed. In late 2008, under pressure from victim-advocacy groups, Beck’s predecessor, William J. Bratton, acknowledged and vowed to address the thousands of pieces of DNA evidence that had sat untouched for years. Earlier this year, LAPD officials

announced all of the backlogged kits had been tested, but said nearly 500 were still awaiting a final review by LAPD staff, which is required by federal guidelines. The effort has paid dividends. City Controller Wendy Greuel alluded to analysts making about 1,000 matches between DNA profiles found in the rape kits and those stored in the databases. Beck clarified that in many of the cases the person identified by the DNA match had already been convicted of the crime.

See DNA | Page 6

LA Regional Crime Lab opens

By Bill Nye

Billed as the largest municipal crime lab in the nation, the Los Angeles Regional Crime Lab on the Cal State L.A. campus was delayed for years by squabbles between agencies and will come in with a price tag of \$102 million, about \$11.5 million more than first estimated. All but about \$6 million of the total will be borne by the state. Los Angeles Police Department crime lab workers toiled in tight quarters that forced them to share work space over three shifts. “Every construction project that ever existed hasn’t come off as expected,” said Greg Matheson, director of the city crime lab.

Matheson Named 2010 ASCLD President



ASCLD President Gregory B. Matheson

See ASCLD | Page 13

INDEX	Serology	2	Examination of	16
	Toxicology	6	Flammable	20
	Examination of Explosives	7	Liquids	
	Crime Scene Investigation	10	Examination of Vehicle Lamp Filaments	20

WEATHER
More / 10

High 72 Low 72

North Hollywood B of A shootout
2000 rounds expended
Regarded as longest and bloodiest in US police history

Killer of Ennis Cosby Found Guilty